Permission to farmers for selling agricultural products in any market

†1250. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has allowed farmers to sell their agricultural produce in any market of the country;

(b) if so, whether the farmers of border districts of Madhya Pradesh could sell sugarcane and jaggery in the districts of Maharashtra; and

(c) the reasons for which the farmers of Madhya Pradesh cannot sell their produce in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. For providing better market access opportunities, the Ministry of Agriculture had drafted a Model Act titled "The agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003" in consultation with the State Governments for amendment of the States APMC Act. The Model Act contains provisions such as removal of compulsion on growers to sell their produce through existing regulated markets, prohibition of commission agency, rationalization of market fees, allowing establishment of direct purchase centers and Farmers Markets for direct sale, enabling any person/grower or local authority to establish new markets in any area, professionalization of management of markets, promotion of Public Private Partnership in management and development of markets, promotion of contract farming etc. Besides this, the Government of India has also amended the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 removing restrictions on the storage and movement of goods and permitted futures trading in number of Agricultural Commodities for better market access opportunities for farmers. As such there is no ban for farmers to sell their agricultural produce in any market of the country under the States APMC Act.

(b) As of date, jaggery has not been notified under the Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi Adhiniyam, 1972 and sugarcane has been exempted from the purview of payment of mandi fee by the State Government. Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi Adhiniyam, 1972 does not provide for imposing restrictions on sale of notified agricultural commodities outside the State or within the State.

(c) Question doesn't arise.

Revised estimate for Jakhau fishery harbour project

1251. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved Jakhau Fishery Harbour Project as 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) whether the initial cost of the project has escalated due to delayed environment clearance thereby raising the amount to Rs. 41.48 lakhs, which is yet to be paid to Government of Gujarat;

(c) if so, whether Government has committed that the enhanced cost could be considered in view of the fact that the original estimates were based on 1990-91 rates;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi